

U.S. ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
POLLUTION/SITUATION REPORT
ITC Tank Fire - Removal Polrep
Initial Removal Polrep



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY
Region VI

Subject: POLREP #1
Initial / first 48 hours
ITC Tank Fire
A6SN
La Porte, TX
Latitude: 29.7294006 Longitude: -95.0899438

To: Reggie Cheatham, EPA HQ
Ronnie Crossland, EPA R6
Anthony Buck, TCEQ

From: Adam Adams, OSC

Date: 3/18/2019

Reporting Period: 3/17/2018-3/19/2019

1. Introduction

1.1 Background

Site Number:	A6SN	Contract Number:	
D.O. Number:		Action Memo Date:	
Response Authority:	CERCLA	Response Type:	Emergency
Response Lead:	PRP	Incident Category:	Removal Assessment
NPL Status:	Non NPL	Operable Unit:	
Mobilization Date:	3/17/2019	Start Date:	3/17/2019
Demob Date:		Completion Date:	
CERCLIS ID:		RCRIS ID:	
ERNS No.:		State Notification:	
FPN#:		Reimbursable Account #:	

1.1.1 Incident Category

The incident is an Emergency Response.

1.1.2 Site Description

The site is located at the Intercontinental Terminals Company LLC Deer Park Facility Tank Farm. Eight above ground storage tanks containing petroleum products including Naphtha, Xylene, Toluene, Gasoline Blendstock, and Base Oil have caught fire and are burning uncontrolled.

1.1.2.1 Location

The incident site is located at 1943 Independence Parkway, La Porte, Harris County, Texas.
Latitude 29.72940, Longitude -95.0899438.

1.1.2.2 Description of Threat

A fire impacting eight 80,000-barrel capacity above ground storage tanks threatens to release contaminants into the atmosphere, as well as potentially discharging the contents of the tanks to drainage pathways. Fire fighting water and foam potentially containing petroleum products was released from an outfall due to accumulation of water from fire fighting efforts.

1.1.3 Preliminary Removal Assessment/Removal Site Inspection Results

On-Scene Coordinators (OSC) Adam Adams and Steve Mason mobilized to the site on 17 March 2019. On 17 March 2019 at approximately 1300 hours, EPA Region 6 Phone Duty Officer activated the Superfund Technical Assessment and Response Team (START-4) to respond to the incident. OSC Adams also activated the EPA ASPECT aircraft to perform an aerial assessment of the incident.

According to the Potentially Responsible Party (PRP), the fire was discovered at approximately 1020 hours on 17 March 2019. The Houston Fire Department, Pasadena Fire Department, and Channel Industries Mutual Aid responded to the incident and are conducting fire suppression activities.

2. Current Activities

2.1 Operations Section

2.1.1 Narrative

2.1.2 Response Actions to Date

The Houston Fire Department, Pasadena Fire Department, and Channel Industries Mutual Aid are onsite performing fire suppression activities. A shelter in place notice was issued for the City of Deer Park and was lifted at approximately 0600 hours on March 18, 2019.

The PRP has contractor personnel onsite performing community air monitoring for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), lower explosive limit (LEL), hydrogen sulfide (H₂S), oxygen (O₂), naphtha, naphthalene, benzene, toluene, xylene, formaldehyde, hexane, sulfur dioxide (SO₂), nitrogen dioxide (NO₂),

and particulate matter (PM2.5).

The Texas Commission on Environmental Quality (TCEQ) and Harris County Hazardous Materials Response Team (HMRT), the Harris County Pollution Control Services Department (PCSD), and the City of Pasadena personnel also conducted air monitoring. TCEQ, Harris County PCSD, Harris County HMRT reported no detected concentrations of hazardous contaminants.

The EPA Team conducted air monitoring at 23 locations downwind of the fire for volatile organic compounds (VOCs), oxygen (O2), lower explosive limit (LEL), carbon monoxide (CO), and hydrogen sulfide (H2S). The EPA team observed one detection of CO at 9.0ppm, but no other concentrations of these compounds exceeded background concentrations. The EPA ASPECT aircraft has flown the incident site, and preliminary results indicated no significant detections measured. ASPECT will be utilized to conduct the same air monitoring mid day for the next three days or until called to demobilize.

As of 1000 hours on 19 March 2019, of the 15 tanks in the tank farm, numbers 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 8 & 15 are completely involved in the fire. Tanks 9 & 12 were empty and have collapsed. Tanks 1, 4, 10 & 13 are not currently involved. As shown in the table below.

Two START teams are on site conducting air monitoring 24-hours a day throughout the plume. Number of teams may increase.

2.1.3 Enforcement Activities, Identity of Potentially Responsible Parties (PRPs)

According to the NRC report, the PRP has been identified as Intercontinental Terminals Company, LLC, P.O. Box 698, Deer Park TX, 77536.

2.1.4 Progress Metrics

At this time the amount of materials discharged or released as a result of the incident have not been provided to EPA.

<i>Tank Number</i>	Status				
	3.19-0735 hours				
1	Not involved				
2	Burning				
3	Burning				
4	Not Involved				
5	Burning				
6	Burning				
7	Not involved				
8	Burning				
9	Collapsed				
10	Not Involved				
11	Burning				
12	Collapsed				
13	Not Involved				
14	Burned out				
15	Burning				

2.2 Planning Section

2.2.1 Anticipated Activities

The EPA Team will continue to monitor response activities, coordinate with participating organizations, and perform community air monitoring downwind.

Sampling of the fire water and foam will be conducted beginning 3.19.19 and will be performed each day. Sample points will be 1) Independence Road, drainage ditch, 2) Tidal Road, drainage ditch, 3) Outflow #3 on Tidal Road, and 4) Confluence of drainage channel and Tucker Bayou.

The two START teams will continue to conduct air monitoring 24-hours a day throughout the response. Teams are monitoring for CO, CO2, H2S, LEL, VOCs, and Benzene.

Beginning on 3.20.19, the teams will begin monitoring for particulates and naphtha, as well.

2.2.2 Issues

The fire initially began at one tank and by approximately 1:30 am, the fire has spread and is engaging a total of 8 tanks with contents and a ninth without contents.

All 15 tanks in the tank farm are at risk.

2.3 Logistics Section

No information available at this time.

2.4 Finance Section

2.5 Other Command Staff

No information available at this time.

3. Participating Entities

EPA Region 6, TCEQ, and the U.S. Coast Guard are coordinating with ITC representatives. Harris County Pollution Control Services is also on-site and supporting the response, as well as a large number of local agencies, fire departments, police departments, etc.

4. Personnel On Site

Personnel Onsite Include:
2 EPA Region 6 On Scene Coordinators
8 EPA START Personnel
4 TCEQ Personnel
2 HCPCS Personnel
USCG Personnel

ITC and additional supporting agencies (fire departments, police departments, etc) are onsite at there discretion. Numbers from each entity and the number of entities have not been provided to EPA.

5. Definition of Terms

No information available at this time.

6. Additional sources of information

6.1 Internet location of additional information/report

Additional information may be obtained from response.epa.gov/ITCTankFire.

6.2 Reporting Schedule

Future POLREP's will be submitted as follows:

Progress POLREP - for a prolonged incident response.

Special POLREP - for significant events that occur during the incident response.

Final POLREP - upon completion of the incident response.

7. Situational Reference Materials

No information available at this time.